

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, TW

SUBJECT: JUNE 14 HUMAN RIGHTS HEARING

REF: STATE 136434

1. JUNE 14 HIRC HUMAN RIGHTS HEARING ON TAIWAN ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION IN U.S. ONLY THREE CONGRESSMAN (FRASER, DERWINSKI AND WOLFF) ATTENDED, AND ONLY FRASER WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT. BRIEF INSIDE PAGE STORY IN WASHINGTON POST WAS ONLY REPORT IN NATIONALLY IMPORTANT U.S. MEDIA. (ALL ROC NEWS MEDIA COVERED HEARING.) ROOM WAS PACKED, BUT AUDIENCE WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM CHINESE EMIGRE COMMUNITY -- LARGELY TIM MEMBERS WITH A SPRINKLING OF ROC SYMPATHIZERS. SOME NAME-CALLING AND PUSHING OCCURRED BETWEEN THE TWO.

2. CONGRESSMAN FRASER DESCRIBED LEVIN'S TESTIMONY AS
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"STRAIGHTFORWARD AND "HELPFUL." LEVIN WAS ASKED ONLY A FEW FACTUAL QUESTIONS ON RIGHT OF EMIGRATION, ROC POLICE SURVEILLANCE ON CAMPUSES AND ABOUT WHETHER THERE WAS AN ORGANIZED TERRORIST GROUP OPPOSED TO GROC. FRASER DID NOT POSE POLICY QUESTIONS, NOR URGE DEPARTMENT TO BE MORE ACTIVE. IN FACT, HE SUBSEQUENTLY VOLUNTEERED COMMENT THAT U.S. ABILITY TO INFLUENCE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ABROAD WAS LIMITED.

3. PROF. SEYMOUR OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DESCRIBED ROC'S SHORTCOMINGS IN SOMEWHAT OVERDRAWN TERMS. HE FOCUSED ON HARRASSMENT OF TAIWANESE STUDENTS, U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ROC REPRESSION BECAUSE OF PAST MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND ECONOMIC INJUSTICES ON TAIWAN, INCLUDING CHARGE THAT THE

U.S.-SUPPORTED POLICE STATE ARTIFICIALLY REPRESSED TAIWANESE WAGES ALLOWING CHEAP TAIWAN IMPORTS TO DEPRIVE U.S. WORKERS OF THEIR JOBS. CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI WAS ABLE TO SCORE SEVERAL DEBATING POINTS WHICH UNDERCUT SEYMOUR'S CREDIBILITY. WHEN ASKED BY FRASER, SEYMOUR AGREED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HAD IMPROVED IN RECENT YEARS.

4. MAYOR WANG'S APPEARANCE WAS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO ROC'S INTERESTS. AFTER HANDING IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE STATEMENT, WANG WAS UNABLE TO FORMULATE COHERENT ANSWERS TO ANY OF COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONS. HIS REFERENCES TO "COMMUNISTS" DREW HISSES FROM AUDIENCE. INTERPRETING WAS DISASTROUSLY BAD, AND OVERALL IMPRESSION WANG LEFT WAS THAT OF AN UNINTELLIGENT ROC PAWN.

5. PROFESSOR YANG, WHO WAS RECOMMENDED TO COMMITTEE BY ROC EMBASSY, WAS TOO ELOQUENT APOLOGIST FOR ROC. HIS MAIN POINTS WERE: (1) U.S. HAS TAKEN TIME TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS AND SHOULD BE TOLERANT OF OTHERS WHO ARE DOING LIKEWISE; (2) THE PRC'S AVOWED INTENTION TO USE FORCE AGAINST TAIWAN JUSTIFIES THE ROC'S HUMAN RIGHTS RESTRICTIONS; AND (3) CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS A CONFIDENTIAL

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FUTURE ON TAIWAN IF GIVEN A CHANCE.

6. OPPOSITIONIST CHANG CHIN-TSE DESCRIBED TACTICS ROC HAD USED TO DESTROY TAIWAN POLITICAL REVIEW (TPR) AND ELECTION FRAUD DURING THE 1975 SUPPLEMENTARY LEGISLATIVE YUAN ELECTION. HE PRESENTED "SECRET ROC DOCUMENT" DESCRIBING GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY AGAINST TPR. WU MING-HUI, WHO CAME ACROSS AS SINCERE BUT UNSOPHISTICATED, DESCRIBED PROBLEMS OF DISPLACED RESIDENTS OF ALISHAN. NEITHER MADE ANY DRAMATIC REVELATIONS, BUT BOTH DREW APPLAUSE FOR AFFIRMING THEIR COMMITMENT TO TAIWANESE INDEPENDENCE. IN DISCUSSING THEIR ESCAPE, WU CRITICIZED GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARD POLITICAL REFUGEES.

7. CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S REMARKS CONVEYED A SYMPATHY FOR TAIWANESE SELF-DETERMINATION, A VIEW HE RECOGNIZED AS DIFFERING FROM THE USG POSITION IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. FRASER OPINED THAT NORMALIZATION WITH PRC AND DERECOGNITION OF THE ROC WAS TANTAMOUNT TO ACKNOWLEDGING PRC SOVEREIGNTY

OVER TAIWAN AND CONCLUDED THAT, SINCE THE TAIWAN ISSUE WAS

A PROBLEM FOR CHINA, NOT AMERICA, THE U.S. SHOULD BE ABLE
TO TAKE ITS TIME ON NORMALIZATION.

8. (COMMENT): NEITHER THE HOPES OF TIM THAT THE HEARING
WOULD FOCUS AMERICAN ATTENTION ON ITS CAUSE NOR THE ROC
FEARS THAT IT WOULD GENERATE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY WERE
BORNE OUT. AS THE HEARING ATTRACTED ALMOST NO PUBLICITY,
THE MAIN IMPACT IN THE U.S. WILL PROBABLY BE TO PROVIDE
GRIST FOR EMIGRE PUBLICATIONS AND DISCUSSION.

9. TEXT OF PREPARED STATEMENTS BEING POUCHED. CHRISTOPHER

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